

# STATE

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## Secretary Launches Civilian Response Corps

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has inaugurated a new Civilian Response Corps that allows federal employees with varied expertise to be deployed to countries

descending into or emerging from conflict.

At an inaugural ceremony in July, Secretary Rice said the Corps will advance U.S. interests by helping to meet the challenges

posed by “weak or poorly governed states... where criminals and terrorists can gather.” She noted that the initiative returns to civilian hands a responsibility that previously had been often assumed by the U.S. military. The CRC will “build more effective partnerships” between federal agencies and between the United States and nations in crisis, she said.

The Corps will have active and standby members from several federal agencies. The active component will consist initially of 100 full-time employees who can be deployed within 48 to 72 hours to a crisis situation. The standby component will include volunteers who have other jobs in government but will be trained and ready to deploy, if needed. Corps members will have had experience as diplomats, public health officials, economists, lawyers and in other fields, the Department said.

The Civilian Response Corps partners the Department of State with seven other agencies, including the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, Commerce, Agriculture, Health and Human Services and the Treasury. The Corps was made possible by Congress’ appropriation of up to \$75 million.



During the Civilian Response Corps launch ceremony, Secretary Rice accepted an honorary membership into the Corps.